

新中友好協會

THE CAPITAL CHINA LETTER 新中通訊



NEW ZEALAND CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER
PO Box 5423 Lambton Quay, Wellington. Website: www.nzcfs.org.nz/wellington

NZCFS Wellington Branch - celebrating 60 years of promoting friendship, understanding and goodwill between the peoples of New Zealand and China

Newsletter December 2020

**2021 CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET
SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2021 AT 6.30PM
GRAND CENTURY CHINESE RESTAURANT
84 TORY STREET, WELLINGTON**



The Wellington Branch invites you to join us in welcoming the Year of the Ox at our Chinese New Year Banquet on Saturday 20th February 2021. The banquet will be co-hosted with the Wellington Chinese Association and will be held at Grand Century Chinese Restaurant, 84 Tory Street, Wellington, at a cost of \$40 per person (including limited wine and juice).

To RSVP, please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and email it to wgtncfs@gmail.com or book online.

BRANCH MEETING 18 November 2020 — MEETING REPORT

'A friend of China' – promoting goodwill, understanding, and friendship

At our monthly members meeting on Wednesday 18th November, NZ China Friendship Society National President **Dave Bromwich** talked to us about the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, celebrated last year in Beijing. Dave reminded us of the historic journey that China has undertaken, from China's 'century of humiliation' to its position today as a global power. He also talked about how China's motives and actions have not always been well understood in the West, leading to strained relationships and mistrust.

It is in this context that Dave asks, 'what does it mean today to be a friend of China?' For members of the NZ China Friendship Society, Dave argues that friendship starts with expressions of goodwill. Through tours, exchanges, and joint projects, we show our openness to new opinions and new perspectives — even when others are sowing seeds of doubt and fear. From this openness flows understanding and friendship, which underpin our relationship with China and the Chinese people.



70th anniversary celebrations

On 30th September 2019, National President Dave Bromwich stood in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing and accepted a Chinese Government Friendship Award — one of 100 people receiving this award in the 70th anniversary year of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Only 1700 people worldwide have received this award since the formation of the PRC in 1949.

The next day, President Xi Jinping stood on the same spot where Mao Zedong had stood 70 years previously and declared 'the Chinese people have stood up'. Dave said that, in his speech, President Xi emphasised the historical background to China's development and his projections for the Chinese people and the world. The traditional October 1 military parade down Chang'an Avenue was followed by a civilian parade and evening celebrations. In their reporting on the October 1 celebrations, Dave saw Western media choosing to emphasise China's military capacity and implications of threat and aggression. For Dave, this was yet another example of the West's misreading of China's intentions.

China's journey

China's journey towards its current status as a global player has not been an easy one. Dave referred to the shameful consequences of the two Opium Wars waged between the Qing dynasty and Western powers in the mid-19th century, when the Chinese government was compelled to grant favourable tariffs, trade concessions, and territory to Western imperial powers. China was forced to open specified treaty ports (most notably Shanghai) to handle all trade with imperial powers and to cede sovereignty over Hong Kong to Britain. Internal dissention, invasion, and civil war only ended with the founding of the People's Republic of China. Dave made the point that, throughout this period, China has had to cope with negative perceptions promoted by the former imperial powers.

Cultural differences

Dave said that understanding Chinese culture has been a challenge to the West. He claimed that cultural differences, rooted in the Chinese philosophies of Taoism (Lao Zi, Chuang Zi) and Confucianism (Kong Zi, Meng Zi), have been responsible for many of the misunderstandings between China and the West. For Dave, the influence of Taoism can be seen in the underlying belief in balance and harmony, evidenced in practical areas like Chinese cuisine (hot/cold dishes) and medicine (acupuncture). The influence of Confucianism can be seen in a focus on relationships and respect for others and things.

New perspectives

Dave claims that Westerners tend to hear phrases like 'shared future for mankind', 'unity through diversity', 'harmonious global community', and 'global consensus for a new era' as cynical or window-dressing statements by Chinese politicians. Dave maintains that we should be more inclined to take these statements at face value, as true statements of Chinese aspirations. He makes the point that these statements are consistent with aspirational statements made in world forums like the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). A resolution aimed at building 'a community of shared future for all human beings' put forward by the UNHRC in 2018 was adopted with 28 in favour, one against (the United States), and 17 abstentions including Australia.

According to Dave, the challenge for the West is to embrace an alternative perspective on issues and allow a Chinese voice to be heard. Only in this way can we diminish conflict and build a global consensus on world affairs. We are in this, says Dave, for the long term.

Next steps

Dave concluded his talk with a review of past and planned tours to China. Over 2018 and 2019 Dave led tours to the centre and the south east of China. A tour planned for this year to the north east and North Korea was cancelled and an overland trip from Hanoi to Lhasa planned for 2021 has been postponed to 2022. However, a tour from Guangxi to Shaanxi retracing part of the Red Army's Long March of 1934-35 is still tentatively planned for September 2021. For more information, see <https://tours.nzchinasociety.org.nz/tours/>.



In May next year, the New Zealand China Friendship Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting. The theme of the AGM will be 'what it means to be a friend of China'. At meetings all around the country, Dave is asking branch members what this means for them. His talk in Wellington concluded with a lively discussion on how we as members and as a society can counteract some of the negative perceptions of China appearing in our media. Wellington branch members look forward to contributing to this debate at the 2021 AGM.

AGM DATE FOR 2021 – NEWTOWN SCHOOL HALL

The Wellington Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th March 2021.

NZCFS WELLINGTON BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2021 YEAR

Membership is open for the 2021 year. To commence/renew your membership for next year, please fill out the form at the back of the newsletter, or with your banquet RSVP.

BRANCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

President:	Chris Lipscombe
Vice President and Treasurer:	Juping Zhou
Secretary:	Vera Xu
Committee Members:	Michael Dunwoodie, Bing Fon and Nigel Murphy
Immediate Past President:	Kirk McDowall
Honorary Advisors:	Luke Qin and Michael Powles
Life Members:	Michael Powles, Ray Brownrigg, Bing Fon, Rob McKibbin, Bernie Richmond, Elaine Richmond, Christine Strickland and Luke Qin

WEBSITE

<https://nzchinasociety.org.nz/wellington-branch-of-the-nzcfs/>

PRIVACY STATEMENT

With the passing of the Privacy Act 2020, privacy protections for New Zealanders have been strengthened and there is a greater obligation on organisations like ours to take care of the information you share with us. We have adopted a privacy statement that describes how we will do this. If you have any questions about your privacy, please email the Secretary at wgtncfs@gmail.com

On acceptance of your membership subscription, you or the organisation you represent will become a member of the Wellington branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Incorporated ("the Society"). Your membership will expire on the 31st of December of the year to which the membership applies ("the expiry date"). The information you provide on this membership subscription form ("the information") will be held by us electronically in a Register of Members as required by the Incorporated Societies Amendment Act 2005 and will be removed from the current Register of Members following the expiry date. The information will be used by us to tell you about member events and activities and to send you notices of meetings. The information will be held securely by us and will be available for you to view at any time on application to the Secretary. The information may be shared with our parent organisation the New Zealand China Friendship Society Incorporated. We will not disclose the information to any other parties, except where required by law. Non-current members will remain on our branch mailing list as supporters and we will continue to let you know about member events and activities. If you decide that you do not want to receive emails from us, you can 'unsubscribe' and we will remove you from our mailing list.

CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET

Saturday 20th February 2021 at 6.30pm
Grand Century Chinese Restaurant, 84 Tory Street, Wellington

Seating places will not be allocated this time. You can book as individuals or arrange a group of 10 and book a whole table.

Please reserve me _____ place(s) for the Society's Chinese New Year Banquet at **\$40 per person**.

Names of person(s) attending banquet:

.....
.....

Alternatively, you can use this [online registration form](#) to reserve your place(s).

(Optional) - MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

I/We would like to renew/commence membership of the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society Inc. for **2021** (The financial year is January to December):

- | | | | |
|--|------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (full time) | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$32 | | |

*Name:
(Given name) (Surname)

(For "Family" membership): Spouse's/Partner's Name:
(Given name) (Surname)

(For "Corporate/Institutional" membership): Contact Person:

*Email

Or you can use this [online form](#) to complete the membership subscription.

Payment total is as follows:	Payment method:
Banquet (\$40 pp) \$	Payment by internet banking to:*
Membership Subscription \$	NZ China Friendship Society
Donation (optional) \$	ANZ Bank Acct No: 11-7200-0080836-11
Total \$	

* When making internet banking payment, please quote your "NAME" and the word, "Banquet/Subs", and be sure to email this form to: wgtncfs@gmail.com

Banquet payment must be received by **Monday 15th February 2021**.

Please let us know if a receipt is required.

Note: Donations over \$5 are tax-deductible. (Charities Registration No: CC27242)